

118. (Amended) The system of claim 138, wherein the input device has a handle, and

K1 wherein movement at the input device produces a proportional movement of the surgical instrument.

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123. (Amended) The method of claim 115, further comprising:

K2 1) providing a first articulate arm, a controller and an input device which receives input commands, the first articulate arm in electrical communication with the controller and the controller in electrical communication with the input device;

2) cutting at least one incision into a patient;

3) attaching the surgical instrument to the first articulate arm, the surgical instrument having a shaft supporting the surgical instrument tip;

4) inserting said surgical instrument into the patient through the at least one incision such that a first portion of the shaft is outside the patient and a second portion of the shaft is inside the patient;

5) generating movement commands to move said surgical instrument in accordance with a surgical procedure being performed, wherein said first articulate arm moves said surgical instrument in accordance with the movement commands such that said first portion of the shaft and said second portion of the shaft move; and

6) removing the surgical instrument from the patient.

138. (Amended) A system that allows a user to control a movement of a surgical instrument, wherein the surgical instrument is coupled to a display device that displays an object, comprising:

K3 a mechanism that moves the surgical instrument, said mechanism having an original position and including a first linkage arm coupled to the surgical instrument and a first actuator which can rotate said first linkage arm and the surgical instrument in a plane perpendicular to a first axis, said first actuator being coupled to a linear actuator which can translate said first linkage arm along an axis parallel with the first axis;

an input device that receives a command to move the surgical instrument in a desired direction relative to the object displayed by the display device; and,

a controller that receives said command to move the surgical instrument in the desired direction, computes a movement of said mechanism based on said command and the original position of said mechanism so that the surgical instrument moves in the desired direction, and provides output signals to said mechanism to move said mechanism said computed movement to move the surgical instrument in the desired direction commanded by the user.

K4 141. (Amended) The system as recited in claim 138, wherein said controller is a computer which receives input signals from said input device and provides output signals to said controller to move the surgical instrument.

Sub L5 > 161. (New) The method of claim 123, further comprising:
inputting the commands by moving a handle, the handle supported by an input linkage and having a sensor, wherein the surgical instrument comprises an articulable surgical instrument having a wrist joint coupling the shaft to the surgical instrument tip, wherein said first articulate arm moves said surgical instrument while the first portion of the shaft is outside the patient and the second portion of the shaft is inside the patient by rotating the shaft about an axis of the shaft, by translating the shaft along the axis of the shaft, and by articulating the wrist joint within the patient, the surgical instrument movement proportional with the handle movement; and

operating a joint coupling a first tip structure and a second tip structure of the surgical instrument by actuating the sensor of the handle.

K5 162. (New) The system of claim 119, wherein the articulable surgical instrument comprises a shaft coupled to a surgical instrument tip by a wrist joint, the articulable surgical instrument insertable into a patient via an incision such that a first portion of the shaft is outside the patient and a second portion of the shaft is inside the patient; wherein the handle has a sensor and is supported by a linkage, wherein movement of the handle produces rotation of said first portion of the shaft and the second portion of the shaft about an axis of the shaft

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extending through the incision, translation of said shaft along the axis, and articulation of said wrist joint, and wherein actuation of the sensor of the handle produces operation of the surgical instrument tip.

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